NEIFELD REF: INVE0010-5
CLIENT REF: INVE0010-5
Application/Patent No: 09/879,825
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Inventor: CRAIG BARNETT
Title: M/S for Electronic Distribution of Product Redemption Coupons
Examiner/ArtUnit: ARTHUR DURAN/3622
ENTITY STATUS: LARGE
Priority claims and PCT Intl data: Continuation of 08/425,195 filed 4/19/1995.

37 CFR 1.1111 AMENDMENT

REMARKS

In response to the 112 rejections, the applicant deletes the reference to the coupon storing location information. In response to the 112 rejection of claim 57 for reciting an authentication server, the applicant deletes that recitation. In response to the prior art rejections based upon Nichtberger and Valencia, the applicant amends the claims to include additional limitations. As amended, the claims now define the novel process and function of identifying coupon data transmitted to a client/user encoding data that enables redemption of that particular coupon to be determined and logged. Moreover, the present independent claims define a subsequent determination by the server system that provided the particular coupon to the client/user to determine whether, upon receipt of redemption data defining that particular coupon, whether that particular coupon was previously redeemed.

Support:

The examiner should note that the last two paragraphs of the specification disclose the online service provider and coupon management functions occurring on a web site, aka a server system. And that (with text copied from the HTML page of issued patent 6,321,208 which issued from the parent of this application):

In accordance with the present invention, the marketing analysis, coupon packaging, and coupon package distribution functions carried out by the coupon distributor 16 may be carried out at the central data repository, i.e. Internet web site. Further, the coupon redemption and user redemption information processing functions individually carried out by the coupon redemption center 13 and the individual retail stores 10 may be combined into a single redemption center, as shown by the dotted line in FIG. 1. The physical layout of the functions within the system of the present invention is a matter a practicality and choice of the systems designer and does not impact the utility of the present invention.

The claims now pending reflect the server centric embodiment in which the redemption center also performs web site and database functions (via limitations added to independent claims 47 and 57) , which limitations also appear in new independent claims 66 and 69.

Except for dependency differences, each set of 2 dependent claims depending from each independent claim are identical to the other 3 sets.

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